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Viewing cable 05ATHENS777, TERRORISM FINANCE: 2005 UPDATE NO. 2 - GREECE

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Understanding cables

Every cable message consists of three parts:

- The top box shows each cable's unique reference number, when and by whom it originally was sent, and what its initial classification was.
- The middle box contains the header information that is associated with the cable. It includes information about the receiver(s) as well as a general subject.
- The bottom box presents the body of the cable. The opening can contain a more specific subject, references to other cables ([browse by origin](#) to find them) or additional comment. This is followed by the main contents of the cable: a summary, a collection of specific topics and a comment section.

To understand the justification used for the classification of each cable, please use this [WikiSource](#) article as reference.

Discussing cables

If you find meaningful or important information in a cable, please link directly to its unique reference number. Linking to a specific paragraph in the body of a cable is also possible by copying the appropriate link (to be found at the paragraph symbol). Please mark messages for social networking services like Twitter with the hash tags **#cablegate** and a hash containing the reference ID e.g. **#05ATHENS777**.

| Reference ID | Created | Released | Classification | Origin |
|--------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|
| 05ATHENS777 | 2005-03-18 14:54 | 2011-08-30 01:44 | CONFIDENTIAL | Embassy Athens |

Appears in these articles:

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This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 000777

SIPDIS

STATE PASS EB/ESC/TFS (DAVID NELSON), S/CT (TODD KUSHNER),
IO/PSC (JOLEEN SCWEITZER), EB/EPPD (CAROL THOMPSON), EUR/SE
TREASURY PASS JUAN ZARATE, OFAC (ROBERT WERNER)

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/18/2115

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SUBJECT: TERRORISM FINANCE: 2005 UPDATE NO. 2 - GREECE

REF: STATE 32688

Classified By: CLASSIFIED BY: ECONCOUNS JSTEPANCHUK; REASONS 1.4 (B,D)

1. (C) According to GoG officials, assets frozen, forfeited or seized by the GoG pursuant to UNSCR resolutions 1267 and 1373 have been insignificant (several thousand dollars).

2. (C) The Bank of Greece (central bank) and the Ministry of Economy and Finance have the legal and administrative authority to identify, freeze and seize terrorist assets. The Bank of Greece and the Ministry of Economy and Finance have circulated to all financial and credit institutions the names of individuals and entities that have been included on the UN 1267 Sanctions Committee's consolidated list as being linked to UBL, members of the al-Qa'ida organization or the Taliban, or that the EU has designated under the relevant authorities.

3. (C) The GoG has cooperated closely with us to investigate those organizations and individuals the U.S. has designated for asset freezing, and the banking system in Greece fulfills its obligations under international resolutions. There are no significant impediments to co-sponsoring designations with GoG under UNSCR 1267 and 1373. The establishment of an intergovernmental committee to monitor terrorism financing following 9/11 has facilitated communications between the Bank of Greece and the Economics and Finance Ministry. However, designations not subject to UNSCR 1267, 1373 and EU regulations require the involvement of the MFA, Justice and other ministries as appropriate. The decision making process under such circumstances is cumbersome, and many cases are still awaiting resolution through the EU clearinghouse process.

14. (C) We believe GoG would be receptive to accept USG training and technical assistance, including an assessment of training needs. The Bank of Greece has been overwhelmed by the sheer volume of designations. Its supervision department immediately acts upon our notifications by instructing commercial banks and credit institutions to begin a records search for accounts identifiable with the designations. The records search is often complicated by the many permutations of some Arabic names, as well as the fact that many branch banks in the provinces are still not computerized and much of the record keeping is still done by hand. Our contacts in the Economic and Finance Ministry believe that seminars on terrorism financing involving banking supervision departments of the major Greek commercial banks would be a useful form of training and technical assistance.

15. (C) Greece is a low risk country regarding significant fund raising or banking services for terrorists. Greek officials have told us that amounts seized to date under UNSCR 1273 have been insignificant and Greece has not been traditionally a financial safe haven for terrorists/organizations affiliated with al-Qa'ida. The bureaucratic obstacles in registering charitable organizations (and the fact that all non-profit organizations are scrutinized by tax authorities) make it unlikely that "hawalas" could operate here undetected.

Ries